



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
LYNCHBURG, VA 24502
FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #6
Sunday, April 6, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12:00 AM *Sunday*, April 6, 2003, through 12:00 AM *Monday*, April 7, 2003. (*New Information is in italics*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28th for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544.

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb 15-Feb 18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City.

These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

3. WEATHER

Today. Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Tonight.** Rain. Mainly after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Northeast winds around 10mph. Chance of rain near 100 percent. **Monday.** Rain. Colder with highs in the upper 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph becoming light and variable in the afternoon. Chance of rain near 100 percent.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA).
- C. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- D. Obtain signatures for the FEMA and Commonwealth Agreement.
- E. *Housing strategy coordination.*
- F. *Mitigation strategy coordination.*
- G. Conduct classes for selected DFO staff.
- H. Establish training component and identify Training Officer for DFO.
- I. Establish a drug and alcohol free environment.
- J. Public assistance strategies.
- K. Establish the Task Force for DFO emergencies.
- L. *Develop and implement DFO strategic plan.*

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):**Tele-registrations:

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
<i>Buchanan Co.</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>Amherst Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Dickenson Co.</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>Arlington Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Botetourt Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Russell Co.</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Halifax Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Tazewell Co.</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Henry Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Wise Co.</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>Lee Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Norton City</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Prince William Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Roanoke City</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Pulaski Co.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Salem City</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>Roanoke Co.</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>464</i>		<i>20</i>

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC): Reviewing applicant registration information in the declared jurisdictions in order to determine the need for fixed or mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to assist applicants with questions or registration issues.

DRC opened today at the Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462. Service hours are 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Coordination is underway for the opening of a DRC in Buchanan County with local officials and FEMA/State staff. *The DRC is scheduled to open on Tuesday, April 8, 2003, pending FEMA functional area inspections that are taking place today. Located in the County Courthouse Building on Main Street in Grundy, VA. The hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.*

Consideration is being given to locating a fixed or mobile DRC in the counties of Tazewell and Wise to serve the needs of the declared jurisdictions in SW Virginia.

Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Validations:

On Wednesday, April 2, we contacted the Emergency Management Coordinators for non-designated jurisdictions. The new information warranted further contact with the following jurisdictions: the counties of *Bland, Lee, Pittsylvania, Augusta, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Roanoke Co. (Town of Vinton), Shenandoah, Warren, Madison, and the cities of Danville and Winchester.*

As such, on Thursday, April 3, we contacted each jurisdiction to notify them of the Commonwealth's plans to verify their reported damages. Each EMC was provided a description of actions to take in preparation for a visit by a State Representative. All State Representatives have been contacted and are currently coordinating their site visits.

Commonwealth Representatives have submitted IDA validation reports for 6 of 13 non-designated jurisdictions. We expect the remaining reports by end of business today. These reports will be reviewed and PDA teams will be deployed, as the FCO/SCO require.

We expect all reports by Monday, April 7.

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA):

The State Fire Marshall's Office has agreed to assist with the PDAs for Individual Assistance. Training is scheduled for 1300 hours, Sunday, April 6, 2003.

Localities, which as a result of the validated IDA have sufficient damages in Individual Assistance categories, will be scheduled for PDA's. *Reported fatalities and any subsequent unmet needs are currently under investigation as well.*

B. Public Assistance (PA):

- *Requesting declaration add-on for snow emergency work only the following jurisdictions*
 - Prince William County*
 - Shenandoah County*
 - Warren County*
 - City of Manassas*
 - City of Manassas Park*
- *Preparing cost documentation for PDA's next week in areas affected by Feb. flooding.*
- Twenty-four (24) requests for public assistance have been received.
- Joint FEMA/Commonwealth kick-off meetings have been scheduled on April 7, 2003 for Fauquier County, City of Winchester, Winchester Regional Airport Authority, Town of Warrenton, Town of Orange, and Town of Gordonsville.

C. Community Relations (CR):

- FEMA / State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activity for the field.
- Field Officers received training in IHP (Individual and Household Program).
- Field Officers are contacting the Local Emergency Manager in the declared jurisdictions.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA DRC location flyer.
- *Field Officers are assessing unmet and special needs in their assigned jurisdictions.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- *Staffing finalized for Hazard Mitigation Section.*
- *Mitigation strategy formatted to Action Plan and calendar.*
- *Finalized the strategy based on the April 17 "success stories" meeting with local governments.*
- *Finalized the Action Plan and transfer plan elements to the April/May strategic calendar.*
- *Finalized briefing points for the April 7, 2003 meeting with Congressman Boucher's staff regarding the Hurley HMGP Project.*

- *Will develop an outline for environmental/historic resources coordinating agency scooping meeting.*
- *Will hold a floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others on May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The Central Shenandoah Project Impact, the VA Association of Floodplain Managers, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation will sponsor the workshop. The point of contact for registration information is Jackie Miller at 804-786-0237.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- *Drafted public service announcement on Salem DRC.*
- *Attended opening of Salem DRC; coordinated interviews for FCO on three TV stations, WSET-TV13 (ABC, Lynchburg), WSLS-TV10 (NBC, Roanoke) and WDBJ-TV7 (CBS, Roanoke). Also conducted interviews with Salem Times Register, the Roanoke Times, Lebanon News, Kingsport Times, New River Valley Radio Partners (network of several stations), WDBJ, WSLS, WDBJ, WKNV, WLSD, WXLZ.*
- *Began drafting mitigation article for second issue of Recovery Times.*
- *Drafted news release on opening of additional DRCs.*
- *Field PAOs continued to contact news media in the declared area; distributed news releases and provided information on the recovery effort, emphasizing the amount of housing assistance provided to date and the opening of the Salem Disaster Recovery Center. The key messages are: Call to register for assistance—don't determine your own eligibility; Visit the Disaster Recovery Center; Disaster assistance doesn't affect other government programs.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- *Continue to refine strategies for distribution of information to State senators and delegates.*
- *Updated information for FCO/Congressional meeting on Monday, April 7, 2003 with district office staffs of Senators Allen and Warner, and with Congressman Boucher.*
- *In coordination with the FCO, Congressional and External Affairs plan to brief Senators Warner, Allen and Congressman Boucher.*

G. Information and Planning:

- *Completed an e-mail listing of local administrators and emergency coordinators for the purpose of electronic mailing of Situation Reports (SITREP).*
- *Updating strategic priorities.*

RHO
April 6, 2003
16h00

Michael M. Cline, SCO